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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, October 22,  
1816, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Washington Octr. 22d. 1816.

Dear Sir

It would give me real pleasure to be useful to Mr. Armstead, for the reasons you have stated, if I had the power, but there is not vacancy in the dept. of state, and so closely beset are all the depts. by applications for clerkships, that opportunities rarely occur of introducing into either, any person whom we wish, however deserving of it. I have spoke to the President in Mr. Armstead's favor, and shall speak to the gentlemen in the other depts., as soon as they arrive, so that I hope he may be provided for. To Govr. Nicholas's family I have been friendly, particularly to those in the military line, and especially while in the dept. of war, when I had the means. Towards him personally, I thought that I had serious cause of dissatisfaction, some years past, but that faling has long since subsided, and never could have been a motive for injuring or slighting his connections. When in Richmond, shortly after the peace, I called on him thereby evincing my willingness to restore a friendly intercourse.

Your sentiments relating to an inscription on the Capitol correspond strictly with my own. Our friends will I doubt not be satisfied with it.

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Mr. Duschkoff has pushed his demand of reparation for what he calls an insult to the Emperor, by the arrest & confinement of his consul genl at Phila., on the charge of committing a rape there, with the utmost degree of violence, of which the case was susceptible. By the state of

his late notes, we have reason to expect, that he will announce the termination of his mission, in obedience to orders given him by his govt., which acting under an excitement produc'd by his misrepresentations, and before a correct statment reached our charge des affrs., at St. Petersburg. A collision with him, which he invited from the commenc'ment by declaring the arrest & confin'ment of the consul, a violation of the law of nations, was carefully avoided, without making any concession, and staff is, tho' the offset which he sought to produce with his govt., has unfortunately been too fully accomplished. It is hoped that the delusion of his govt. will be momentary, & presumed, whenever it ceases, that the reaction will be felt by himself. The incident is a disagreeable one; the govt. knew nothing of it, till after the consul had been arrested, & releasd from confinement, and it has imposed on the govt. the painful duty only, of exerting itself to prevent its producing mischief at Petersburg, without making any sacrifice of principle here. With Mr. de Neuville we have some respite, procur'd by some jarring, which he ought to have avoided. The Spaniards in the gulph of Mexico, seem to invite, a rupture, which their govt. cannot be prepared for or desire .From Algiers we have heard nothing lately.

With great respect affesy. your friend Jas Monroe

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